To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.

THE Humble Answer of the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, to his Majesties last Message of the 11th of *September*, 1642.

With a true Coppie of the Message.

Septem. 16th 1642.

ORdered by the Lords in Parliament, That this Message, with the Answer, shall bee forthwith Printed and Published. *Iohn Browne, Cler. Parl.*

September 17.
London, Printed for *Iohn Wright*. 1642.

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To the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie.

The Humble Anſwer of the Lords and Commons in Parliament aſſembled, to His Majeſties laſt Meſſage of the 11th of Septem. 1642.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

WE the Lords and Commons in Parliament aſſembled, doe preſent this our humble Anſwer to your Majeſties Meſſage of the 11th of this inſtant moneth of *September*, when we conſider the Oppreſſions, Rapines, Firing of Houſes, Murthers (even at this time when your Majeſty propounded a Treaty) committed upon your good

Subjects by your Souldiers in the presence, and by the authority of their Commanders, being of the number of those whom your Majesty holds your selfe bound in Honour and Conscience to protect, as persons doing their duties; we cannot thinke your Majesty hath done all that in you lyes to prevent, or remove the present distractions; nor so long as your Majesty will admit no peace without securing the Authors and Instruments of these mischieses from the justice of the Parliament, which yet shall be ever dispenc'd with all requisite moderation and distinction of offences, although some of those persons be such, in whose preservation your Kingdome cannot be safe, nor the unquestionable rights and priviledges of Parliament bee maintained, without which the power and dignity thereof will fall into contempt: Wee beseech your Majesty therefore to consider your expressions, That God shall deale with you and your posterity, as your Majesty desires the preservations of the just rights of *Parliament*, which being undenyable in the thing, of such as we have declared to bee Delinquents, wee shall beleeve your Majesty both towards your selfe and Parliament, will not in this priviledge wee are most sensible of, deny us that which belongs unto the meanest Court of Iustice in this Kingdome: Neither hath your Majesty cause to complaine, that you are denyed a Treaty, when we offer all that a Treaty can produce, or your Majesty expect security, honour, service, obedience, support, and all other effects of an humble, loyall, and faithfull subjection, and seeke nothing but that our Religion, Liberty, peace of the Kingdome, safety of the *Parliament* may be secured from the open violence and cunning

practises

practiſes of a wicked party, who have long plotted our ruine and deſtruction. And if there were any cauſe of treaty, we know no competent perſons to treat betwixt the King and Parliament, and if both cauſe and perſons were ſuch as to invite a treaty, the reaſon is altogether unfit whilſt your Majeſties Standard is up, your Proclamations and Declarations unrecalled, whereby Your Parliament is charged with Treaſon.

If your Majeſty ſhall perſiſt to make your ſelfe a ſhield and defence to thoſe inſtruments, and ſhall continue to reject our faithfull and neceſſary advice of ſecuring and maintaining Religion and Liberty with the Peers of the Kingdome and ſafety of the Parliament, We doubt not but to indifferent judgements it will eaſily appeare, who is moſt tender of that innocent blood which is like to be ſpilt in this cauſe, your Majeſty who by ſuch perſiſting doth endanger your ſelfe and your Kingdomes, or wee who are willing to hazard our ſelves to preſerve both.

We humbly beſeech your Majeſty to conſider how impoſſible it is that any Proteſtation though publiſhed in your Majeſties name, of your tenderneſſe of the miſeries of your Proteſtant Subjects in Ireland, of your reſolution to maintain the Proteſtant Religion and Laws of this Kingdome, can give ſatisfaction to reaſonable & indifferent men, when at the ſame time divers of the Iriſh traytors and rebels, the known favourers of them, and agents for them are admitted to your Majeſties preſence with grace and favour, and ſome of them employed in your ſervice, when the cloaths, munition, horſe, & other neceſſaries bought by your Parliament, and ſent for the ſupply of the Army againſt the Rebells there, are violently taken away, ſome by your Majeſties command

others by your Ministers, and applyed to the maintenance of an unnaturall war against your people here.

All this notwithstanding as we never gave your Majestie any just cause of withdrawing your selfe from your great Counsell, so it hath ever been and shall ever be far from us to give any impediment to your returne, or to neglect any proper meanes of curiug the distempers of the Kingdome, and closing the dangerous breaches betwixt your Majestie and your Parliament, according to the great trust which lies vpon us. And if your Majesty shall now be pleased to come back to your Parliament without your Forces, wee shall be ready to secure your Royall person, Crowne and Dignity, with our lives and fortunes; your presence in this great Counsell being the only meanes of any treaty betwixt your Majesty & them with hope of successe.

And in none of our desires to your Majesty shal we be swayed by any parti cular mans advanta ge, but shal give a cleer testimony to your Majesty and the whole world, that in all things done by us, we faithfully intend the good of your Majesty and of your Kingdomes, and that we will not be diverted from this end by any private or selfe respects whatsoever.

To

To Our Right Trusty and Welbeloved

The SPEAKER

of the House of PEERES.

WE have taken most waies, used most endeavours, and made most reall expressions to prevent the present distractions and dangers; Let all the World judge, as well by former passages as by Our two last Speeches which have been so fruitlesse, that though we have descended to desire and presse it, not so much as a treaty can be obtayned, unlesse we would denude our selfe of all force to defend us from a visible strength marching against us, and admit those persons as Traytors to Us who according to their duty, their oathes of Allegiance, and the Law, have appeared in defence of Us their King and Liege-Lord, whom We are bound

bound in conscience and Honour to preserve, though we disclaimed all Our Proclamations and Declarations, and erecting of our Standard as against our Parliament: All We have now left in Our power is to express the deepe sence We have of the publique misery of this Kingdome, in which We involved that of Our distressed Protestants of Ireland, and to apply our selfe to our necessary defence, wherein We wholly rely upon the providence of God, and the Justice of our cause, and the affection of our good people, so far We are from putting them out of our protection, when you shall desire a treaty of Us, We shall piously remember whose blood is to bee spilt in this quarrell, and chearefully embrace it. And as no other reason induced Us to leave Our City of London, but that with honour and safety We could not stay there nor raise any force, but for the necessary defence of Our Person, and the Law, against levies in opposition to both, so we shall suddenly and most willingly returne to the one and disband the other as soone as those causes shall be removed. The God of heaven direct you, and in mercy divert those judgements which hang over this Nation, and so deale with Us and our Posterity as we desire the preservation, and advancement of the true Protestant Religion, the law and liberty of the Subject, the just rights of the Parliament, and the peace of the Kingdome.

FINIS.